

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
WESTERN DIVISION

MICHELLE LEIFHEIT,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
VS.)	No. 15-2639-JDT-tmp
)	
TRINITY MINTER, ET AL.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

ORDER DIRECTING PLAINTIFF TO COMPLY WITH 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2)
OR PAY THE \$400 CIVIL FILING FEE

On September 25, 2015, Plaintiff Michelle Leifheit, Tennessee Department of Correction prisoner number 502836, who is incarcerated at the Mark H. Luttrell Correctional Center in Memphis, Tennessee, filed a *pro se* complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF Nos. 1 & 2.)

Under the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”), 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(a)-(b), a prisoner bringing a civil action must pay the filing fee required by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). Although the obligation to pay the fee accrues at the moment the case is filed, *see McGore v. Wrigglesworth*, 114 F.3d 601, 605 (6th Cir. 1997), *partially overruled on other grounds by LaFountain v. Harry*, 716 F.3d 944, 951 (6th Cir. 2013), the PLRA provides the prisoner the opportunity to make a “down payment” of a partial filing fee and pay the remainder in installments. § 1915(b)(2). However, in order to take advantage of the installment

procedures, the prisoner must properly complete and submit to the district court, along with the complaint, an *in forma pauperis* affidavit containing a current certification by the prison trust account officer and a copy of her trust account statement for the six months immediately preceding the filing of the complaint. § 1915(a)(2).

In this case, the affidavit submitted by Plaintiff is not accompanied by a certification by the trust account officer and a copy of her trust account statement. Accordingly, Plaintiff is ORDERED to submit, within thirty (30) days after the date of this order, either the entire \$400 civil filing fee¹ or an *in forma pauperis* affidavit and a certified copy of her trust account statement for the last six months. The Clerk is directed to provide Plaintiff with another copy of the prisoner affidavit form along with this order. If Plaintiff needs additional time to file the required documents, she may request one 30-day extension of time from this Court. *McGore*, 114 F.3d at 605.

If Plaintiff timely submits the necessary documents and the Court finds that she is indeed indigent, the Court will grant leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* and assess a filing fee of \$350 in accordance with the installment procedures of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b). However, if Plaintiff fails to comply with this order in a timely manner, the Court will deny leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*, assess the entire \$400 filing fee without regard to the installment

¹ Twenty-eight U.S.C. § 1914(a) requires a civil filing fee of \$350. In addition, § 1914(b) requires the clerk to “collect from the parties such additional fees . . . as are prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States.” The Judicial Conference has prescribed an additional administrative fee of \$50 for filing any civil case, except for cases seeking habeas corpus and cases in which the plaintiff is granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* under 28 U.S.C. § 1915. Therefore, if Plaintiff is ultimately granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* in accordance with the PLRA, she will not be responsible for the additional \$50 fee.

payment procedures, and dismiss the action without further notice pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), for failure to prosecute. *McGore*, 114 F.3d at 605.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ **James D. Todd**
JAMES D. TODD
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

² Even a voluntary dismissal by Plaintiff will not eliminate the obligation to pay the filing fee. *McGore*, 114 F.3d at 607; *see also In re Alea*, 286 F.3d 378, 381 (6th Cir. 2002).